

Claims

[c1] 1. A dosage-scaled beverage sweetener utensil, comprising:
an immersion portion configured to have width substantially greater than
thickness, thereby defining a broad and thin shaped first end;
a handle portion forming a second end and connected to said immersion
portion, forming a unitary structure therewith; and
wherein said immersion portion and handle portion are formed of a pre-
selected quantity of cooked-and-formed raw cane sugar containing interstitial
point defects toughening the utensil structure and enabling structural integrity
in the broad and thin shape of said immersion portion.

[c2] 2. The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said immersion portion
has a ratio of width to thickness in the range from 4:1 to 20:1.

[c3] 3. The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said immersion portion is
configured such that the ratio of surface area to volume is in the range from
15-30 sq. in. per cubic inch.

[c4] 4. The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said immersion portion
and handle portion are of substantially equal thickness.

[c5] 5. The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said handle portion is of
a width no less than one-half the width of said immersion portion.

[c6] 6. The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said immersion portion
and handle portion consist of approximately 70% by weight raw cane sugar.

[c7] 7. The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said pre-selected
quantity of raw cane sugar is a quantity sufficient to provide sweetness
equivalent to no more than two teaspoons (10 ml) of refined, granulated sugar.

[c8] 8. The beverage sweetener utensil of Claim 1, wherein said pre-selected
quantity of raw cane sugar is a quantity sufficient to provide sweetness
equivalent to no more than one teaspoon (5 ml) of refined, granulated sugar.

[c9] 9. A method of forming a dosage-scaled beverage sweetener utensil,

comprising:

first, cooking raw cane sugar to form a homogeneous mass;
second, shaping said mass into a product stream;
third, dividing the product stream into sub-units of pre-selected size;
fourth, forming a sub-unit into a sweetener utensil; and
fifth, packaging the sweetener utensil in an atmosphere of reduced oxygen content.

[c10] 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of dividing the product stream into sub-units of pre-selected size comprises:
forming the product stream into sub-units containing a quantity of raw cane sugar equivalent in sweetness to refined sugar of no more than two teaspoons (10 ml) in volume.

[c11] 11. The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of forming a sub-unit into a sweetener utensil comprises:
forming an immersion end and a handle end, wherein the handle end is no more than one-half the width of the immersion end, and the immersion end and handle end are of equal thickness.

[c12] 12. The method of Claim 9, wherein said packaging step comprises:
packaging the sweetener utensil in a contained atmosphere of reduced oxygen content relative to atmosphere.